

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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EA/TB - MR. KLEMSTINE

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R 280025Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 3236; BANGKOK 695

1. EMBASSY MAY, AT APPROPRIATE TIME, INFORM THAI OFFICIALS THAT, DESPITE OUR PREVIOUS EXPECTATION TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO BANGKOK IN FEBRUARY, SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES AND UNCERTAINTIES AS TO FUTURE OPERATIONS OF US CARRIERS THROUGH BANGKOK LEAD US TO RELUCTANT CONCLUSION THAT TALKS SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL A SOMEWHAT LATER DATE IN THE SPRING.

2. JOHN MEADOWS, CHAIRMAN USDEL, IS LEAVING DEPARTMENT JANUARY 31 TO SET UP OWN AIR TRANSPORTATION CONSULTING SERVICE. HIS PLACE AS CHAIRMAN WILL BE TAKEN BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAYMOND J. WALDMANN. WALDMANN'S SCHEDULE CALLS FOR HIM TO BE IN AUSTRALIA IN LATE FEBRUARY AND DEPENDING ON OBLIGATIONS THERE WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SET UP A FIRMER PROGRAM OF NEGOTIATIONS. FYI.
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WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS DELAY MAY BE DISTORTED INTO

EVIDENCE OF BAD FAITH AND COULD EVEN BE PRETEXT FOR UNDERTAKING FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. CARRIER OPERATIONS. THIS IS A RISK WE ARE NOT ABLE TO AVOID.

CLEARLY OUR EXPEDITIOUS ACTION ON AIR SIAM PERMIT IS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT USG PREPARED DO ITS PART IN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT AND CLEAR ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY WALDMANN'S SCHEDULE MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT THAILAND PRIOR TO END OF FEBRUARY, AND FURTHER SCHEDULING WILL DEPEND ON TALKS IN AUSTRALIA WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE AVIATION MATTERS. END FYI.

3. ALTHOUGH EARLY CAB ACTION IS EXPECTED ON PAN AM/TWA ROUTE SWAP PROPOSALS IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT BOARD'S FINDINGS WILL BE CHALLENGED IN THE COURTS. CONCEIVABLY THIS COULD CAUSE FURTHER UNCERTAINTIES AND DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF DEAL.

4. WHILE GOT OFFICIALS MAY TEND TO CONCLUDE THAT THE RECENT SETTLEMENT OF THE PAN AM LABOR DISPUTE PLAYS INTO HANDS THAI NEGOTIATORS, SINCE THE PROMPT SETTLEMENT MAY REFLECT A PAN AM VIEW THAT BANGKOK IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THEIR SYSTEM, THERE MAY BE ANOTHER EDGE TO THE SWORD. THAI LABOR POLICIES THAT ADVERSELY IMPINGE ON OPERATIONS AND PROFIT MARGINS, HARASSMENT IN THE FORM OF AIRCRAFT SEIZURES, AND A GENERALLY UNRESPONSIVE ATTITUDE BY THAI OFFICIALS INEVITABLY CAUSE INTERESTED U.S. CARRIERS TO GIVE CAREFUL STUDY TO USE OF SITES OTHER THAN BANGKOK. DEPARTMENT FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT PAN AM'S EQUIPMENT IS CAPABLE OF FLYING DELHI-HONG KONG DIRECT IF NECESSARY. WITHOUT IN ANY WAY THREATENING REDUCTION IN SERVICE EMBASSY MAY ALLUDE TO ABOVE AS DESIRED. KISSINGER

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